



# The Guardian

*Anna del Mar*

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## The Guardian Anna del Mar

From the Amazon Bestseller author of the The Asset comes The Guardian.

Game Warden Matthias Hawking is a decorated ex-SEAL engaged in a grueling fight against ruthless poachers in Africa. He's short on resources and long on enemies. There's a price on his head. The last thing he needs is the unexpected arrival of a beautiful but stubborn journalist threatening to uncover his secrets, an alpha female challenging his alpha male and getting into trouble, a hurricane wearing boots.

Jade Romo is a veteran of several different kinds of war. She's survived her heroin-addicted mother, the foster care system, and the conflict in Afghanistan. Jade's tough, confident, cynical, and self-reliant, a woman who doesn't believe in forever. But when she defies the poachers and lands at the top of the warlord's kill list, she's forced to rely on the skilled, attractive but supremely infuriating game warden who has captivated her body's undivided attention.

Haunted by his past but driven by his courage, her mysterious guardian will do anything in his power to protect the woman who has captured his heart.

Book three of the Wounded Warrior series

## The Guardian Details

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Contemporary Romance, War, Military Fiction, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review The Guardian for online ebook

### Kim Vanravenswaay says

What a book! I was drawn in by the first chapter and hung on till the end. The beauty really comes through of the African preserve. I could imagine the animals in all their glory.

I laughed a little when Matthias finally gives in to the desire he has for Jade. He does a complete 360 as far as emotions go. Really the two couldn't be more perfect for each other.

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### Liliyana Shadowlyn says

Forget everything you think you know about romance novels, and buckle in for a wild ride. The setting isn't the only thing that brings the heat in this amazing tale of love, daring, and fighting for what's right. But can two alphas really fall in love, and submit completely to the desires whirling within? You'll have to read this unforgettable book to find out!

received in exchange for a fair and honest review

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### Valeen Robertson (Live Thru Books Blog) says

*The Guardian* is the kind of romantic suspense I like - action packed, intense, sexy, and above all, grounded with real characters who have layers. Jade Romo is a badass heroine. She's smart, strong, a former Marine, a survivor who has formed Mission Protect and has her own show on NatGeo. She knows her stuff, that's for sure. When she meets Game Warden Matthias Hawking, sparks fly, tempers flare, and you just know immediately that you're in for a hell of a ride with these two. From the start, Matthias does not want Jade on his reserve. He too, is a badass. He's a former SEAL with scars of his own. The gorgeous, obviously competent, but fiery Jade sets off his nerves from the start and he makes it known.

But when the chips are down, he and Jade protect each other. When she garners the attention of a local warlord, and sets off a round of violent action, the two of them will have to rely on each other if they want to get out of this together, and alive.

It's not just the sexy chemistry between these two that make this such a special story, though. It's all set on a beautiful background of a reserve in Africa. There are some really special elephants that have their own story, and other special animals that make up the reserve that Matthias works so hard to protect from poachers. And there are wonderful secondary characters, most of whom I'd love to read stories of, too.

If you like your romantic suspense with loads of chemistry, interesting, sexy leads, and special, beautiful animals, I click *The Guardian* today. Anna del Mar has never let me down yet, and with *The Guardian*, she's raised the bar even further.

*I received an ARC via NetGalley for an honest review.*

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## **Rajan says**

Africa is rich in flora and fauna. Now many species are on the verge of extinction. But there is someone who is fighting the poachers.

Jade Romo, a journalist comes to Africa to uncover some secrets. Game warden Matthias Hawking is ex navy seal and fighting against the poachers. He admits here reluctantly knowing full well she means trouble. But he is attracted to her as well. He saves her from deadly thugs and then what happens?

Book has both erotic and thrill elements. The pace is good and story keeps interest going. It is a good one time read for sake of thrill and romance. 3/ 5 stars.

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## **K.S. Marsden says**

Jade Romo is a conservation and media star. Her no-nonsense attitude, and drive to deliver the truth, has won her a legion of fans. Unfortunately, these qualities are about to make Matthias' job a lot harder.

Wow, I enjoyed that a lot more than I was expecting!  
I mean, I like to read Romance books, but it's rare they ever score highly for me.

This is the first book I have read by Anna del Mar, and at the time, I didn't realise it was the third book in the Wounded Warrior series. I'm happy to report that this can be read as a stand-alone.

Jade travels across the world, so she can blog, photo and film animals in the wild. She's adventurous, and independent; happy to face the dangers alone, as she always has.

She doesn't have a great people-charming qualities, and says whatever is on her mind, regardless of what trouble it will get her in.

When she heads to Africa on her next mission, she couldn't deep the problems go.

Matthias is an ex-SEAL, who has moved on to run one of the most successful nature reserves in Tanzania. He runs the research facility with military precision, and always has his head in the game, until Jade steps off that plane.

This was awesome, and appealed on so many levels.  
You have the wildlife, and the exciting location.  
You have the threat of poachers.  
And you have Jade, who turns out to be a lot tougher than you would first think.

It is a Romance, but it also has an excellent plot that holds it's own, as the poaching leads to a much bigger adventure.

I would definitely recommend this, and I'm looking forward to reading more of del Mar's work!

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## **Cathy Geha says**

The Guardian by Anna del Mar  
A Wounded Warrior Novel #3

Take one plucky persistent photo journalist and plop her down on a game preserve in the Serengeti where the Game Warden is the strong alpha silent type who expects his orders to be followed and you have...a story of intrigue, poachers, science, infiltrators, undercover operations and more...and a romance both Jade AND Matthias fought for as long as they could.

Jade has a background that makes trust difficult for her. She is used to working as a team member and able to take orders BUT she also does not like hearing the word “no” – especially when it infringes on her work. She thinks quickly on her feet but needs to when she finds herself in dicey situations. She and Matthias don’t hit it off well as the story begins but over time they grow on one another. The supporting characters are good and bad with some that are supposed to be good proving not to be good at all and vice versa. The story has quite a bit of action, some suspenseful moments, some camaraderie, some romance with a steamy encounter or two (or three) and ends with a bang...well the bang is near the end anyway ;)

I enjoyed the book but had trouble relating to Jade and Matthias as easily as I did to the main characters of the first two books in this series and am not sure why. Perhaps they seemed more like superheroes than real people? Anyway, I enjoyed learning more about Africa and feel that poachers deserve their own corner in hell for the atrocities they perpetrate. I loved the interaction with Bibi, the elephant matriarch, though I wondered how real such an interaction might be. In fact, the reality factor related to the interactions with poachers, Chinese Cartel and in fight scenes left me thinking...really?...more times than not. Other than that – the story was a fun fast-paced read that will appeal to many. I really liked Rem and Mei and am interested in finding out what might happen to them in the future – IF they have their stories told.

Thank you to NetGalley and the author for the ARC – This is my honest review.

3-4 Stars

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## **Devika Ramadoss says**

Matthias Hawking, an ex-SEAL who is now a Game warden busy fighting and protecting the African reserve from poachers. There arrives the famous journalist Jade Romo for her project. They both being an alpha male and alpha female struggles hard to hide their secrets and love from each other. Soon the secrets reveals one by one which makes Jade a target for poachers. Will Jade and Matthias survive this ? Will they win each other?

This is my first book of wounded warrior series. So I had no idea how the other books were but after reading this book i am pretty much sure that they will be fantastic.

Jade Romo travels to Africa for her project “Mission Protect”. She was welcomed by Matthias who expects everyone to follow his orders without any second thought. Jade being independent and a ex veteran doesn’t need a boss. Two uneven but parallel characters falls in love.

I liked the way the author expressed the two protagonist characters. Both had same set of characters but they looked unique.

The story travels and continues each chapter with both Jade and Matthias point of view. That's is the special mention of this book.

Romance between Jade and Matthias were awesome and brought smile on my lips at many instances. The book was all of romance and tiny ego fights but towards the end it emerged as a thriller with real combat actions.

Overall the book will lighten up your mood and make you to fall for Jade and Matthias. If you are going to love Jade, then just be careful as Matthias will be watching you.

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### **Sparkymom says**

I've read quite a few of Anna Del Mar's books, both this series and others. I almost skipped this one since I'm not typically a fan of what I call destination novels. I thought the setting might detract from my enjoyment of the story, but I couldn't have been more wrong. Even if I hadn't read that Ms. Del Mar had actually traveled to Africa, out would have been evident from her vivid descriptions. I know the romantic suspense genre gets a bad rap sometimes, but there are actually many RS authors out there who take time to research their subject or setting and to create an exciting work of fiction which also makes you think about issues you might have never previously considered or might have pushed to the back of your mind. The best authors weaver those aspects seamlessly into the story without distracting you from the thrill of the suspense and the sizzling sexual tension. Such is the case with this book. The action started right off the bat, and the chemistry that took a bit of time to fully develop was evident in the sparks between Jade and Matthias from the start. These two kick butt alphas shouldn't really mesh, but they do. Both are stubborn, and both are infinitely capable. Matthias is absolutely beyond sexy. When they are both thrown into the midst of the most dangerous situation possible, it's anyone's guess what might happen. All said, I really couldn't put this down. I consumed it today within hours and absolutely loved it. Bibi the elephant was a particular favorite. I can't wait to get Sarah and Rem's story.

I received an ARC from Net Galley.

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### **Elaine says**

This is a suspense-filled, action packed safari - a superb story with great characters in an amazing setting - I loved it! This is another of those rare books where I advise you to read the book, don't bother with my review . . . .

Just in case you want to know what I thought of it, however, I'll keep on typing. . . .

Jade Romo is a feisty, confident, determined young lady. She's survived a horrendous childhood to become a renowned journalist and blogger, one who uncovers and reveals secrets, fighting for what is right. She's supposed to be in Africa undercover but shortly after landing in the reserve she's visiting she not only challenges a warlord, she shows him up in front of his men and so moves promptly to the top of his hit list. That's bad enough, but the other person sharing that top spot with her is the game warden, Matthias Hawking, who is determined to send her away from danger . . . . Let the fireworks begin!

Poachers, drug dealers, international terrorism, human trafficking, spies and secrets - this story has them all. There's also a very special elephant who makes appearances at key points in the story. It is a superbly crafted page turner that had me hooked from the very start. The main characters are both strong personalities and the chemistry between them is off the charts. This is a story to keep you anxious about what will happen next, with so many twists and turns it will have you reeling. This is definitely one of my top recommends to anyone who enjoys romantic suspense, a story to keep you absorbed and entertained from dramatic start to the superb finale!

I requested and received a copy of this novel, via NetGalley, with no obligation. This is my honest review after choosing to read it.

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### **Heather 123 says**

This is the 5th book I've read by this author and the 3rd in this series. While I enjoyed this book, I didn't think it was as good as the others in this series.

First, I struggled with the connection between the two main characters. Matthias suddenly declares this incredible attraction to Jade which to me seems to come out of left field. I didn't get the build up to this. I didn't feel that Jade felt the same attraction and it almost felt as if Matthias had bullied Jade into admitting their was an attraction there.

Second, there was far too much inner dialogue. It grew boring at times.

It was just okay...

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### **Jennifer Pierson says**

HOLY HELL ANNA DEL MAR! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?! When I read the blurb for The Guardian, I was very intrigued, but I NEVER SAW THIS EPIC GOODNESS COMING! Jade Romo didn't have an easy childhood, and although she was adopted by a loving couple, she still battles some demons from early childhood. However, it doesn't make her incompetent, as she's a veteran of more than one war, survived a heroin-addicted mother/foster system, and the conflict in Afghanistan. Now she has a great career that let's her travel by herself wherever she wants as she's a bad a\*\* that is very cynical, and trusts very few people. Until she lands in Africa for a new assignment, and irritates the super sexy Game Warden, Ex-Seal Matthias Hawking, goes rogue, and puts herself at the top of a warlord's kill list, so will she learn to rely on more people than just herself? Usually, I'll describe both heroine & hero, but Jade was such a fantastic heroine, that I couldn't help but go on about her, despite all of her stubbornness. Now Matthias was a great hero, although at times I wanted to shake him, but he oozed the sexy alpha male. He and Jade together were TNT together, and while very entertaining with their push & pull arguments, that TNT finally EXPLODED into FIERY FLAMES that lit up the African skyline in it's intensity. And if they were entertaining enough, that cast of colorful secondaries kept me laughing, and I LOVED me some African Proverbs. Anna del Mar is my newest addiction after one book, and trust me it was off the charts exciting, with her super talented writing style that kept me in one position cover to cover with heart racing! Her diabolical twists & turns kept me on my toes with loud f-bombs dropping, and I never wanted the story to end! I CANNOT WAIT to get my hands on more of this amazing author's work, so I'll just end with

HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND!

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### **Bec\_BookMagicReviews says**

Jade Romo has survived a lot throughout her life, but heading to Africa for a story leads to a dangerous encounter with ruthless poachers. However, not even the price on her head is going to stop her from getting what she wants. But when things get too dangerous, will Game Warden Matthias Hawking be able to keep her safe or will they lose their shot at happy ever after?

What an absolutely mesmerizing, fast-paced, action-packed read Ms. del Mar has delivered in this story that started off brilliantly with the heroine standing up to the hero and not backing down because she's totally against his idea of what he thinks she should do. Is Africa too dangerous a place for her to be at the moment? Will Matthias be able to keep her safe? However, it was from the moment where trouble first arises with the poachers that had me on the edge-of-my-seat and made this story an absolute page turner, as I wanted to know what would happen the next time Jade and Matthias went up against the poachers. How far were the poachers willing to go to make certain that Jade and Matthias didn't interfere in their operation?

As for the dialogue, it was well-written, highly entertaining and I loved every moment the hero and heroine conversed, as Jade gets under Matthias's skin and vice-versa. The heroine is trouble with a capital T for Matthias with her insubordination and need to prove she can take care of herself, which is proven by what she does when she comes up against the poachers. Furthermore, the dialogue was intense due to what the poachers do to one of the animals that had chills running down my spine. How could people be so evil? However, in saying that, the dialogue wasn't all intense. There were certainly some light-hearted moments between the hero and heroine that had me smiling, because Jade is feisty and has serious trust issues that make it hard for her not to stand up for herself. Will Matthias be able to show Jade that she can trust him?

Both the main characters were utterly charismatic and had me hooked due to their interactions; and the heroine's resilience and courage that makes her take risks when it comes to helping against the poachers. Moreover, I liked how the heroine wasn't afraid to speak her mind and do anything to help out a friend, which is proven by what she does for one of the secondary characters. Yet, what I liked most of all about the heroine is that she gave the hero a chance. While the hero, he's had it tough but I liked how he's overcome his past to become the game warden and a man that isn't afraid to go up against the poachers the way he does. I also liked how he was well-respected by the men he worked alongside and that he would do anything to protect Jade and the animals.

Overall, Ms. del Mar has penned a worthwhile read in this book where the chemistry between this couple was off-the-charts; the romance was delightful and showcased how right these two are for each other; and the ending had me flipping the pages quickly because of what goes down between the main characters and the poachers. Will Jade and Matthias come out on top? However, it was the epilogue that wrapped this story up perfectly, as Jade has found the happiness she deserves and there's nothing more right than the decision this couple make for their future right at the end. Africa is a magical place for Jade and her work. I would recommend *The Guardian* by Anna del Mar, if you enjoy romantic suspense; the opposites attract trope; the sexy protector trope; or books by authors Sheryl Nantus, Cate Beauman, Katie Reus and Toni Anderson.

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## **Donna Repsher says**

Let me start by admitting to absolutely loving Anna del Mar's Wounded Warrior series, and this third book in the series is no exception. From the first page to the last, this novel grabbed me and didn't let go for a minute. It's a 5-star read.

One of the things I love about this series is the settings. We went to Alaska in the last book and what an about-face to find ourselves just about to land in Tanzania, at a private wildlife game reserve, Pacha Ziwa, in the Seregeti, where the heroine, world renowned NatGeo photographer and documentary film-maker, Jade Romo, along with three other female visitors to the reserve, are about to set down in their small plane. In addition to her current job, Jade is also a former marine, and she's one of the toughest, pushiest, most independent, tough-as-nails, and kickass heroines you're likely to find, and I absolutely loved that about her.

Jade is soon to meet her match in the person of Game Warden, head honcho, and sexy as all get-out, Matthias Hawking, a take-no-prisoners, wounded ex-SEAL, who really doesn't want Jade, or any of her companions on the reserve--especially Jade. To say that these two alpha characters strike sparks off each other is like comparing a single matchstick to a forest fire, but both of them keep their interest in each other well hidden. Matthias is not just a game warden--he's committed to conservation efforts and to rounding up the wily and evil poachers who have been decimating the local wildlife, especially the herd of elephants, whose ivory they're after. There's far more to this story than just a band of poachers, so settle in and get set for a tale of lies and half-truths, violence, lust, near rape, human trafficking, abduction, genital mutilation, murder, blackmail, terrorists, world politics and international intrigue. Some of the aforementioned may be triggers for some readers, so be advised.

Both Matthias and Jade have secrets they're keeping, and rather than risk giving away those secrets, I'll just say that this novel is as exciting as it gets, a true page-turner, loaded with twists, turns and danger around every corner. It's also one very hot read, and not for the young or faint of heart. It deals with many of the issues in present-day Africa and it does so in a way that makes them very personal. Kudos to Ms. del Mar, who, in addition to writing one un-put-down-able novel, not only exposes so many of these issues, but does so in a way that truly touches the heart. Do not miss this one!

I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy of this novel. The opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

'The Guardian' by Anna del Mar is Book Three in The "Wounded Warrior" series. This is the story of Matthias Hawking and Jade Romo. I have read the other books in this series (and Loved Them!) but feel this can easily be a standalone book.

Jade has come to Africa to do a possible story there. Jade is the founder of Mission Protect and a celebrity in the conservation world with her Social Media sites...even to have a show on NAT GEO. Matthias is a wounded ex-SEAL who now is the Head Game Warden for the area. Matthias doesn't want her doing any of her dangerous stories here. But when Jade gets into trouble with some poachers Matthias is in full protective mode.

Another Hot Exciting Story by Ms. del Mar. "My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."

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## **Dawn says**

Combine poachers, endangered species, the plains and landscape of Africa with an ex-seal Guardian and A reporter and the reader is treated to a book that you can't put down. Enjoyed this story line and characters for an interesting tale. This is the second book I've read by this author and I will be looking for more in this series.

Ebook from Net Galley and publishers with thanks. Opinions are entirely my own.

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